

Connecticut Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses
American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), Region I, Chapter 2
Connecticut Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Society (CT APRNS)
Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists (CANA)
Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA)
Connecticut Society of Nurse Psychotherapists (CSNP)
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP), Connecticut Chapter
The Northwest Nurse Practitioner Group

March 16, 2009 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

Testimony in SUPPORT of Raised Bill No.6674, AAC Workforce Development and Improved Access to Healthcare Services

Senator Harris, Representative Ritter, and Members of the Public Health Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Mary Leahy. I am the owner of Roaring Brook Family Practice, in Avon. I understand I am one of a few independent nurse practitioner practices offering primary care in Connecticut. We established the office in 2005, upon the request of my existing patient population. We offer comprehensive evaluation and treatment of common medical problems. We have recently hired a second nurse practitioner and additional office support. We currently have approximately 1800 patients. To my knowledge, we are one of very few primary care practices in the Farmington Valley to accept underserved populations, including patients with state insurance.

My only goal is to provide quality comprehensive care to my patients. With more and more physicians going into specialty practice and research, indicators predict a greater role for nurse practitioners in the primary care setting, particularly-as has always been-with underserved populations. Roaring Brook Family Practice helps meet the growing need for ready access to primary care. We need more such practices out there. We cannot meet the needs of Connecticut residents now.

Over years of practice in Connecticut, I have developed working relationships with many physician colleagues. I have a large pool of varied physician specialists with whom I can discuss patient care issues, and whom I greatly respect. My relationship with the area physicians is solid, and is not dependent on a mandated collaborative agreement. My practice would not change if the mandate was eliminated.

Anything you can do to decrease barriers to access would be a welcomed improvement to our health care system. Thank you for your consideration.

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